

## **Axios/CNN/The Hill: Menendez, 10 European foreign affairs committee chairs condemn Nord Stream 2 deal**

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Tue 8/3/2021 1:30 PM

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### **Axios: Menendez, 10 European foreign affairs committee chairs condemn Nord Stream 2 deal**

Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) and 10 of his European counterparts signed onto a joint statement Monday voicing their opposition to the U.S.-Germany deal on the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, calling it "another tool" for Russia to "pressure and blackmail" Ukraine.

**Why it matters:** Outrage over the agreement, which will allow Russia to circumvent Ukraine and deliver gas directly to Europe, goes beyond just Republican Biden critics on Capitol Hill.

**The big picture:** The Biden administration itself has condemned Nord Stream 2 as "a Kremlin geopolitical project that threatens European energy security," but argues that the pipeline's completion is a "fait accompli" and that more sanctions would only serve to damage relations with Germany.

- Under the terms of the deal, Germany agreed to take action if Russia tries to "use energy as a weapon," set up a "green fund" to help Ukraine modernize its energy sector, and seek to ensure Russia continues to pay Ukraine around \$3 billion in gas transit fees annually.
- Poland and Ukraine released a joint statement last month condemning the steps as "not sufficient."

**What they're saying:** The 11 parliamentary chairs said in a statement that the completion of Nord Stream 2 "will strengthen the impact of Russian gas in the European energy mix, endanger the national security of EU member states and the United States, and threaten the already precarious security and sovereignty of Ukraine."

- They condemned Russia's "brutal aggression and military occupation" of Ukraine, and called on NATO and the EU to deliver a road map for Ukraine to obtain membership.
- "We insist that any further agreements on Nord Stream 2 necessitate consultations across the transatlantic family," the chairs concluded. "Moreover, such diplomacy should happen with the fundamental principle in mind - countering malign Russian aggression is in all of NATO's, all EU members, and our partners in Central and Eastern Europe vital national security interests."

### **The statement was signed by:**

- Bob Menendez, chair of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee
- Marko Mihkelson, chair of the Estonian Riigikogu's Foreign Affairs Committee
- Ondřej Veselý, chair of the Czech Chamber of Deputies' Foreign Affairs Committee
- Pavel Fischer, chair of the Czech Senate's Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security Committee
- Charles Flanagan, chair of the Irish House of Oireachtas' Foreign Affairs Committee
- Rihards Kols, chair of the Latvian Saeima's Foreign Affairs Committee
- Marek Kuchciński, chair of the Polish Sejm's Foreign Affairs Committee
- Bogdan Klich, chair of the Polish Senate's Foreign and European Union Affairs Committee
- Oleksandr Merezhko, chair of the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada's Committee on Foreign Policy and Interparliamentary Cooperation
- Tom Tugendhat, chair of the U.K. House of Commons' Foreign Affairs Committee
- Žygmantas Pavilionis, chair of the Lithuanian Seimas' Foreign Affairs Committee

United States Senate Committee on  
**FOREIGN RELATIONS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 2, 2021

**CONTACT**

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## **Chairman Menendez, European Foreign Affairs Committee Chairs Issue Joint Statement on Nord Stream 2**

*WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was joined by his counterparts from Estonia, Czech Republic, Ireland, Latvia, Poland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and Lithuania in issuing the following joint statement in opposition to the recent agreement between the United States and Germany to allow the completion of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline:*

“We, the Chairs of Foreign Affairs Committees of our respective national parliaments, continue to oppose the Nord Stream 2 pipeline project and with regret note the recent decision of the United States and Germany on Nord Stream 2, which entails resuming completion of the pipeline.

“We consider Nord Stream 2 a geopolitical project geared towards expanding Russia's influence on Europe by dominating the energy market. The completion of the pipeline will strengthen the impact of Russian gas in the European energy mix, endanger the national security of EU member states and the United States, and threaten the already precarious security and sovereignty of Ukraine.

“Moreover, the completion of NS2 will give Russia yet another tool to pressure and blackmail Ukraine. It continues to face Russia's brutal aggression and military occupation of its territories because of its pro-European choice. As a result, over 14,000 Ukrainians have died, and every week, more Ukrainian soldiers give their lives to protect their homeland and entire Europe. The EU and United States must work together to increase sanctions pressure on the Kremlin to counter aggression in Ukraine.

“The likely repercussion of the completion and operation of Nord Stream 2 is to undermine the development of a single, liberalized, and open European market by consolidating sources of supply in the Nord Stream 2 system and deterring investment in alternatives. We expect a clear commitment from Germany to reduce dependency on gas imported from Russia and move towards green energy. We presume that Germany will handle its responsibility towards these goals with the utmost dedication. We need to make a collective commitment to increase support to the security and defence capabilities of Ukraine in order to prevent a deepening of the current security crisis, exacerbated by the threats created by Nord Stream 2.

“In the changing security environment in the region, we call for commitments from NATO to strengthen deterrence, especially on the Eastern Flank from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea. We also need to commit to delivering a road map for Ukraine's path towards joining the NATO alliance, if Ukraine makes the necessary reforms and meets NATO membership standards. To consolidate the transformation efforts of the Ukrainian government as well as democracy and human rights in the region, we call for a European Union membership perspective to be agreed upon for Ukraine.

“We insist that any further agreements on Nord Stream 2 necessitate consultations across the transatlantic family. Moreover, such diplomacy should happen with the fundamental principle in mind - countering malign Russian aggression is in all of NATO's, all EU members, and our partners in Central and Eastern Europe vital national security interests.”

**The joint statement was signed by:**

**Sen. Bob Menendez**  
Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee  
United States Senate

**Marek Kuchciński**  
Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee  
The Sejm of the Republic of Poland



**Marko Mihkelson**

Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee  
The Riigikogu of the Republic of Estonia

**Ondřej Veselý**

Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee  
The Parliament of the Czech Republic

**Pavel Fischer**

Chairman of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security  
The Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

**Charles Flanagan**

Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee  
The House of Oireachtas

**Rihards Kols**

Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee  
The Saeima of the Republic of Latvia

**Bogdan Klich**

Chairman of the Foreign and European Union Affairs  
Committee  
The Senate of the Republic of Poland

**Oleksandr Merezhko**

Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Policy and  
Interparliamentary Cooperation  
The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

**Tom Tugendhat**

Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee  
The House of Commons of the United Kingdom

**Žygimantas Pavilionis**

Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee  
The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

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<https://www.menendez.senate.gov/newsroom/press/chairman-menendez-european-foreign-affairs-committee-chairs-issue-joint-statement-on-nord-stream-2>

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<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/565982-menendez-counterparts-from-multiple-nations-join-in-opposition-to>

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